

Claim Amendments:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-8 (canceled).

9. (new): A method for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to a subject suffering from rheumatoid arthritis a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody molecule comprising antigen binding regions derived from the light and heavy chain variable regions of an antibody to an  $\alpha 1 \beta 1$  integrin or fragment thereof.

10. (new): A method for inhibiting or preventing rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to a subject at risk of developing or suffering from rheumatoid arthritis a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody molecule comprising antigen binding regions derived from the light and heavy chain variable regions of an antibody to an  $\alpha 1 \beta 1$  integrin or fragment thereof.

11. (new): A method of claim 9, wherein the antibody is AJH10 secreted by a hybridoma designated as ATCC PTA-3580.

12. (new): A method of claim 10, wherein the antibody is AJH10 secreted by a hybridoma designated as ATCC PTA-3580.

13. (new): A method of claim 9, wherein the antibody is a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, a monoclonal antibody, or a polyclonal antibody.

14. (new): A method of claim 10, wherein the antibody is a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, a monoclonal antibody, or a polyclonal antibody.

15. (new): A method of claim 9, wherein the antibody is an anti- $\alpha 1$ -I domain blocking antibody and the amino acid sequence of the antibody epitope comprises the sequence Val-Gln-Arg-Gly-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO: 8) or an amino acid sequence that is equivalent or homologous to such sequence.

16. (new): A method of claim 10, wherein the antibody is an anti- $\alpha 1$ -I domain blocking antibody and the amino acid sequence of the antibody epitope comprises the sequence Val-Gln-Arg-Gly-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO: 8) or an amino acid sequence that is equivalent or homologous to such sequence.

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17. (new): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of the antibody AJH10 secreted by a hybridoma designated as ATCC PTA-3580 effective in preventing, inhibiting, or treating rheumatoid arthritis.